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ABSTRACT

The problems and prospects of American research universities are discussed in light of such issues as shifting federal policies, resource constraints, increased partnerships with business and industry, and the changing needs and perceptions of the larger society. The book captures the collective experiences of 12 former university presidents who served through the 1980s and left office around 1990. In the first chapter, the book traces developments since World War II as a prelude to considering the 1980s and 1990s, discussing the explosive growth of science and technology, and the influence of government on higher education as a patron of research, as a stimulus to the growth and changed composition of student bodies, and as a regulator. Other chapters trace the economic and political forces that have affected the climate of research universities since the mid-1980s, as well as such issues as research fraud, conflict of interest, and conflict of commitment. Internal university governance and the university as a political system are considered. In considering the future of the research university, the effects of resource constraints locally and nationally are addressed. The public leadership role of university presidents and the role of the Association of American Universities are also discussed. (SW)

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